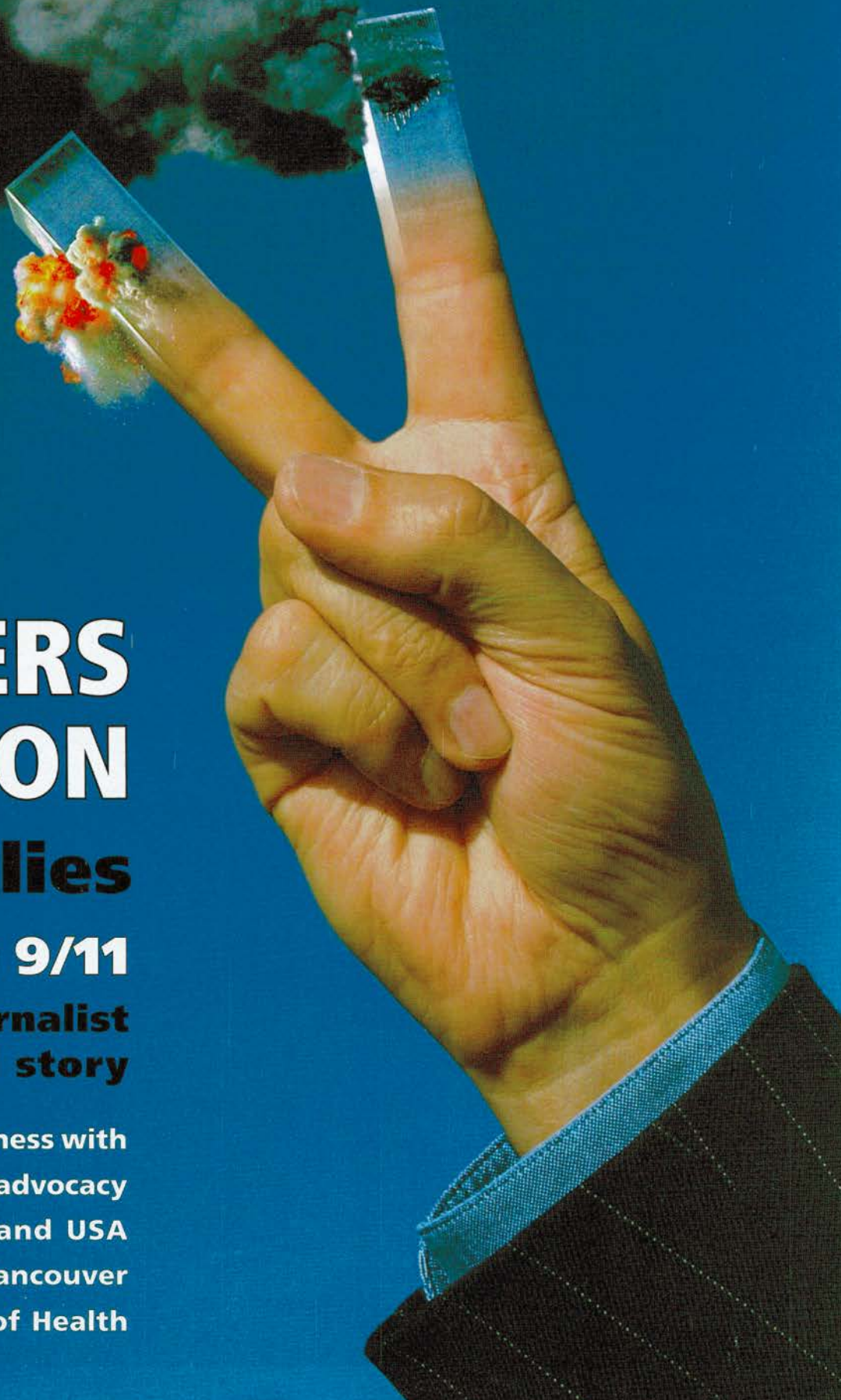


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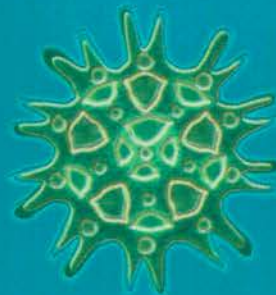
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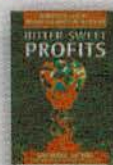
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TWIN TOWERS OF DECEPTION

Five years of lies
Barrie Zwicker on 9/11

Paul George • To your health with Wendy R. Holm • High school and university group hostage • Conservatives and USA gunning for the Canadian Wheat Board • Vancouver International Film Festival • Taste of Health

They lied to us about weapons of mass destruction as a pretext to invade Iraq. They cheated voters in Florida and will continue to fix elections with electronic voting machines. They refuse journalists access to their war zones, and they own or manipulate much of the major media. They make billions of dollars by monopolizing oil and selling military weapons. They give us pipedreams so they can build their pipelines. Who are these people? They are the same ones who brought and sold us the events of September 11, 2001 – multinational pirates who trick and plunder citizens worldwide – hiding the truth to protect their own interests. Just as they only want embedded journalists covering their wars, they want us to be embedded media consumers parroting their conspiracies. This edition of Common Ground is dedicated to the people who have been killed by their actions, harmed by their lies and deceived by their secrets. The interview with Barrie Zwicker serves only as an introduction to the bigger picture, a wakeup call to dispel the illusions that keep us misinformed, fearful and dependent. You may not agree and that is well and good, because at this point in history, with our civil liberties being stolen from us, it is smart to find out for yourself what is really going down. Questioning the official story is an act of responsible citizenship.

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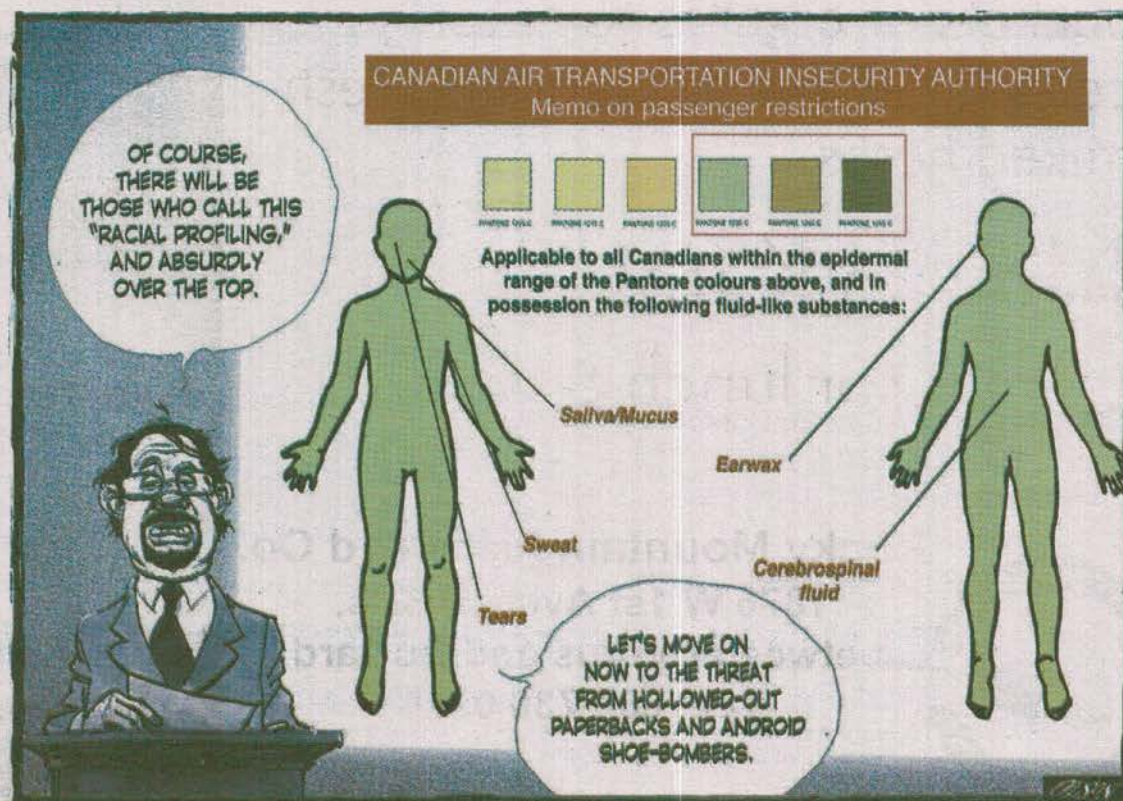
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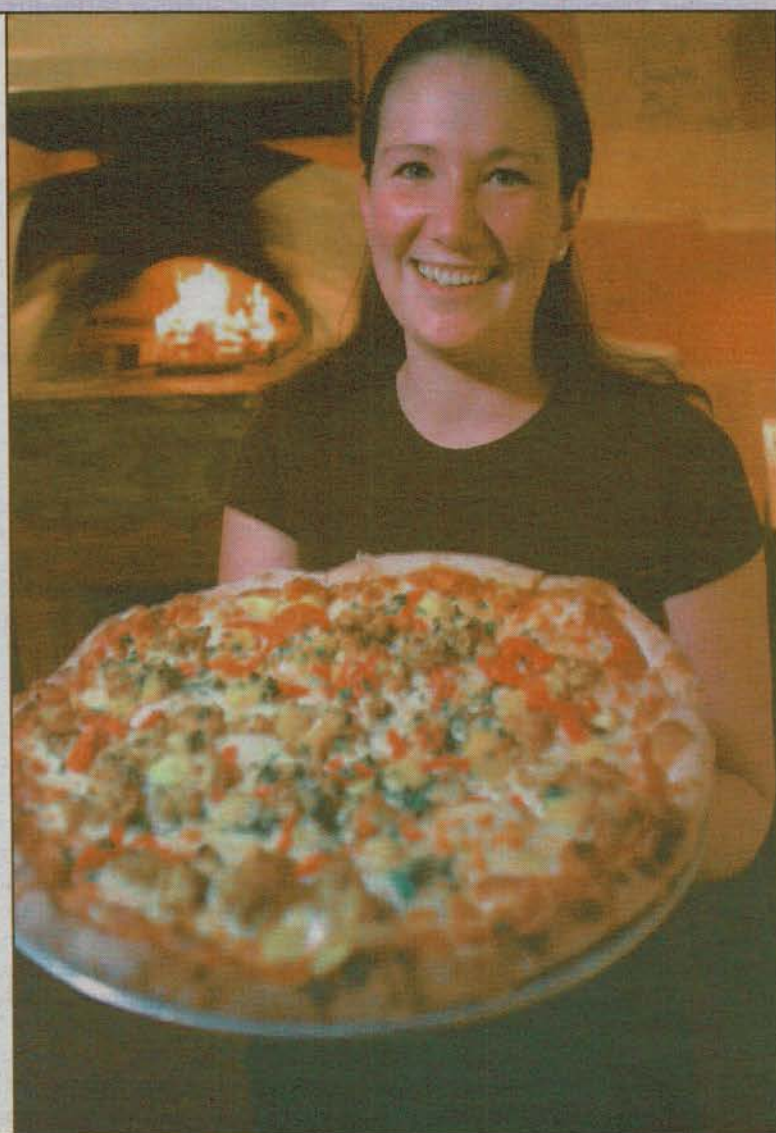
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Big Pharma holds drug and advocacy groups hostage

DRUG BUST • ALAN CASSELS

In Canada, many people believe that our healthcare system is ruled by common sense, good evidence and patient-centred care delivered by helpful doctors and nurses. Thankfully, these principles underlie much of the work of people in the healthcare field, guided by the best interests of their patients.

There is increasing confusion, however, about what “real” patients actually want. More and more, I see decisions around treatments hijacked by lobby groups representing positions that are more in alignment with

tions. A recent study published on BiomedCentral.com by Andrew Herxheimer, creator of (www.dipex.org) – an excellent web-based source of patient experience about healthcare – examined advertising and disclosure of financial support by drug companies on the websites of major patient organizations. His team found that “... financial reporting and disclosure of donors varied substantially” and that corporate donations were itemized only about 20 percent of the time. They concluded: “Patient-organization websites do not provide

because not all neuropathic pain treatments work for everyone. But, who would you prefer to assess the real value of a new treatment: the hostages or the negotiators? Perhaps that is why I am biased in favour of the Health Canada Common Drug Review. When it comes to decisions about the value of new treatments, I prefer independent evidence over camouflaged, corporate-sponsored “awareness and action.” I would rather the hostages put down the assault rifles and show a little allegiance to the fair-minded negotiators instead

means, at least there’s some comfort in knowing that information about safety is given some attention.

For information about specific drugs, you have to look at the “Tips for living well” section under “Understanding medications,” where, unfortunately, the same kind of banal drug information that the pharmacist issues upon dispensing a prescription greets visitors to the page. Nothing about comparative effectiveness, safety and cost, but lots of “Go ask your doctor.” Hmm.

What about recent scandals or controversies? Anything about the litany of warnings, safety advisories, scandals and lawsuits related to the coxibs – drugs like Celebrex, Vioxx and Bextra? Not much. Instead, you get a taste of the propaganda that has propelled the marketing of these drugs: “...the Coxibs are much safer on the stomach than traditional NSAIDs...” (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs). Watch out for flying pigs.

In terms of safety issues, I had hoped to see a profile of Celebrex (celecoxib), specifically the “Dear Healthcare Professional” letter of September 21, 2005, issued by the drug maker, warning patients with ischemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, or congestive heart failure of the dangers of taking this drug. Hmm, nothing obvious. That seems unusual given that tens of thousands of Canadians are still taking Celebrex. Nor is there any profile related to the “Dear Healthcare Professional” letter of January 13, 2006, warning of “Hepatitis B Reactivation” associated with drugs like Enbrel (etanercept), Humira (adalimumab) and Remicade (infliximab). Despite my optimism, on safety warnings alone, the arthritis site is a washout.

I had expected to see a lot more about the recent scandals that surrounded the approval, funding, promotion and uptake of Vioxx, a “breakthrough” drug enthusiastically lauded by advocates a few short years ago for arthritis pain relief, but which now holds the record for the world’s biggest and most deadly drug disaster. Alas, nothing there either. I can’t think of any better example than Vioxx for why consumers need impartial advice about pharmaceuticals from independent sources, rather than the enthusiastic promo work done by patient-groups held hostage by Big Pharma.

Similarly, patients or caregivers looking for balanced information

I search the Alzheimer Society website for any sign of the clinical trial where 11 Aricept patients who had vascular dementia died, compared to no deaths in the placebo patients. I find nothing. No word either on the warnings issued about the Alzheimer’s drugs.

their corporate backers than with patients’ real concerns.

I have come to believe that disease-groups funded by drug-pushing drug manufacturers suffer from Stockholm syndrome. Remember the millionaire heiress Patty Hearst? Kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army in 1974, the petite, rich girl ultimately wielded an assault rifle to help her kidnappers rob a bank, apparently having aligned with the SLA’s cause. I think of Hearst whenever I see patient-disease groups held hostage, identifying with the needs and goals of their funders. Like Patty, they come to believe that their very survival depends on it.

Is this what is happening with industry-funded advocacy groups? Many patient-groups openly confront the various controversies around the disease in question, asking hard questions about the possible treatments and digging into data to help patients make better sense of the treatments’ benefits and dangers. And we need them.

At the same time, those same patient-groups often act as if they are operating under some Olympic-style motto, demanding, more, better and faster drugs, diagnostic tools or treatments. I immediately become suspicious when the hostages begin adopting the tone of their funders. When they start pushing for faster and newer drugs for example, instead of demanding better safety, effectiveness and affordability, they’ve essentially picked up their captors’ weapons.

Much confusion reigns because funded patient-disease groups rarely disclose the source or amount of money they receive from corpora-

enough information for visitors to assess whether a conflict of interest with Pharma exists.”

Sometimes Pharma’s fingerprints are obvious; a recent event in Calgary this past summer highlights what I mean. A seminar advertised on local radio invited listeners to a free evening meeting to discuss the subject of chronic pain. While much of the seminar orbited around pain, it seems that the real goal was to get patients worked up so that they’d write and lobby Alberta MLAs to fund newer drugs coming down the pipeline.

In these obvious, industry-funded exercises, one of the primary punching bags is Health Canada’s Common Drug Review Directorate, a new federal body mandated to review the cost effectiveness of new drug treatments. If you want to know which side of the fence a patient-group sits on, you need only examine what they think of the CDR. The drug companies and their Astroturf groups loathe the CDR. Why? Because the CDR does an outstanding job of ensuring that evidence supersedes politics in decisions about the value of new drugs.

There are many industry-funded groups, such as the folks behind the pain seminar in Calgary, pushed by their funders to make a case for the newest drugs. The “action group” involved in the neuropathic pain seminar (www.nepaction.ca/organization.htm) is run by a PR firm hired by a company that markets, surprise, surprise, a new neuropathic pain drug.

Some patients who suffer from neuropathic pain would definitely benefit from access to a new drug

of their captors. Go ahead. Call me old-fashioned.

The drug companies see patient-groups as vital allies in advertising both the disease and the treatments. As their own marketing literature informs us, what better way to camouflage one’s actions than to get a sick and captive audience to lobby on your behalf? There is no doubt that patient-advocacy groups, which cover every illness under the sun, play an important role in representing the views of patients and consumers. Let’s take a closer look at a couple of high-profile groups in Canada – those dealing with Alzheimer’s and arthritis – to see how they stack up.

While there is a lot of good stuff on their websites, given that both of these groups take money from pharmaceutical companies, are they able to provide balanced information about diseases and treatments to their members? When talking about drugs, do they provide the three vital pieces of comparative information all patients need to know before considering any treatment: safety, effectiveness and cost? Do they highlight important safety warnings, government advisories, recalls and so on? Let’s take a closer look.

There is some room for optimism when viewing the Arthritis Society of Canada website (www.arthritis.ca). The homepage announces a recent advisory from Health Canada, which warns that Remicade (infliximab) is linked to a rare form of cancer in children and adolescents taking the drug for Crohn’s disease. Scanning the advisory, one realizes that while it is not a complete report by any

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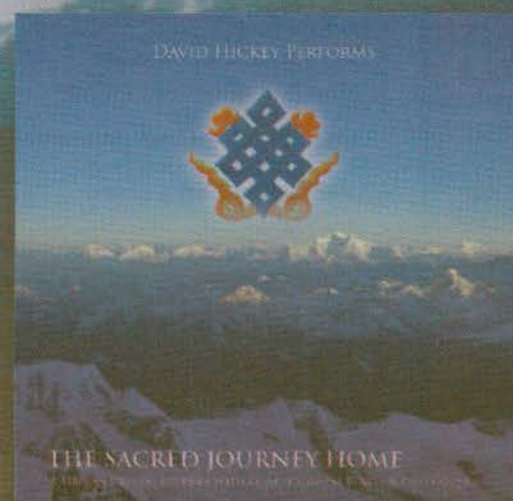
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For a lifestyle change to become a permanent part of your life, a few key elements need to be in place. First, you must set your sights on your goal. You could add some new recipes to your repertoire and include more health-oriented people in your network of friends. You might also check out restaurant fare that is delicious, healthful and handy to your workplace or home.

Second, to take off and fly with lifestyle changes, you'll need the sustained support of like-minded others – the wind beneath your wings – to help you reach your goal. You may wish to collaborate with a friend in assembling a new recipe every month, shopping for ingredients, trying out a good knife, or sharing a great meal. You could take a few cooking classes and sign up with your spouse or family member or that neighbour you'd like to get to know.

For one excellent source of support, mark your calendar to attend Earth-Save Canada's Taste of Health food festival, which runs September 30 and October 1. (See sidebar.) Throughout the year, this volunteer organization offers a continuous stream of support for positive lifestyle change, including dine-outs, potlucks, speaker events, an environmentally focused Toastmasters group, discussion groups, get-togethers for people under the age of 25, cooking classes, evenings for volunteers and sometimes even speed dating. For more information, call 604-731-5885 or visit www.earth-save.bc.ca/. The website also posts a directory of vegetarian restaurants and vegetarian-friendly businesses and services.

Here are a few other ideas to support your new vision:

- Ask your best friend to switch from latté and pastry get-togethers to regular strolls or brisk walks along the seawall.
- Join the North Shore Hikers (www.northshorehikers.org) or a local cycling group. For a list of cycling routes, visit the City of Vancouver website at (<http://vancouver.ca/eng-vcs/transport/cycling/index.htm>). The Fraser Valley also has many excellent cycling destinations (www.britishcolumbia.com/recreation/?id=49). Don't worry if you're the oldest, or the youngest, in the group.

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EarthSave Canada's Earth-friendly food and lifestyle show

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- Check out the new offerings at your local community centre: tai chi, yoga, or perhaps a stress-reducing comedy workshop.

- Adopt a dog: contact the SPCA at 604-879-7721 or visit (www.sPCA.bc.ca) for a list of locations in BC. You'll not only be giving a good home to a deserving canine, but you'll also have a companion who will gaze at you with adoring eyes – even when your hair is a mess – and who'll motivate you to get outdoors for exercise several times a day. My 93-year-old aunt Edna credits her good health to her faithful pooch and their walks by the ocean.

- Sign up for a regular delivery of organic produce. For evening delivery in Vancouver and for information about delivery in the Fraser Valley through to Hope, visit (www.ladybugorganics.com) or call 604-513-8971. Also check out FarmFolk/CityFolk at (www.ffcf.bc.ca) or call 604-730-0450.

- Ask your local librarian for a collection of vegetarian cookbooks or books on outdoor recreation.

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Vesanto Melina MS, registered dietitian, is co-author of seven food and nutrition classics, such as *Becoming Vegetarian* (available in 12 countries and three languages), *Raising Vegetarian Children*, *Becoming Vegan* and *The Food Allergy Survival Guide*. Call 604-882-6782 or email (vesanto@nutrispeak.com).



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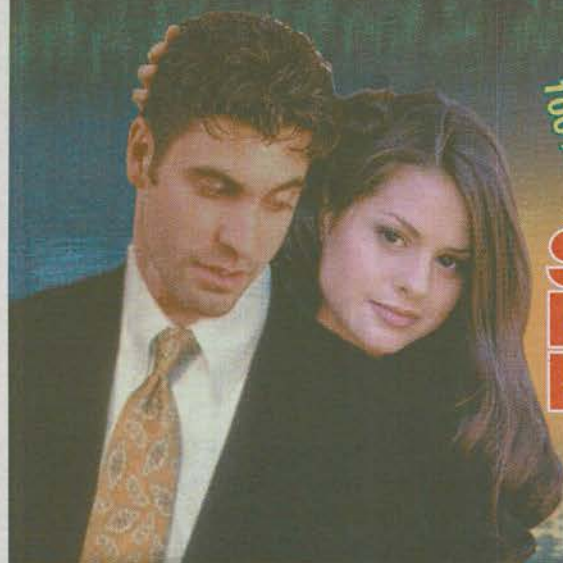
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There is a game in play that we can't afford to lose. It's called global warming and we are both the players and the pitch. Forget the Olympics; this is the only game that matters. If we win, our children and grandchildren inherit an Earth full of forests, green cities and wild places – an Earth they can continue to live on comfortably.

If we lose, they inherit a truly uncomfortable Earth.

Rising sea levels will inundate coastal cities. The summer heat will make life in many places intolerable, and many rainforests will burn up. The stakes could not be higher. So why in the name of all that is beautiful has BC Hydro awarded electricity contracts to two new, coal-fired power plants, backed by the BC government?

Choosing to burn coal is like head-butting the referee at a critical stage of the game. It's like pitching a boner when the bases are loaded.

It's like placing the puck in your own goal while talking to the goalie.

The Compliance Energy Corporation has acquired a contract to burn coal, and maybe some wood-waste, in a 56 MW power plant near Princeton in the beautiful Similkameen Valley. The AES Wapiti Energy Corporation has been invited to burn coal, and maybe a little wood-waste, in a 165 MW power plant near Tumbler Ridge in northeastern BC, south of Chetwynd and Dawson Creek.

The projects still have to go through the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, so there is plenty of opportunity for people to share their thoughts, but the contracts are waiting when they're ready. Between them, they will increase BC's greenhouse gas emissions by up to 1.83 million tonnes of CO₂ a year. An average car produces six tonnes of CO₂ a year, so it's the equivalent of putting 300,000 new cars on the road and driving them for 40 years.

The corporations will also produce mercury, sulphur dioxide and particulates – just the kinds of things you want your children to breathe. By BC's "best in the world" air quality standards, they'll be allowed to produce 92 times more pollution than the gas-fired Sumas 2 project near Abbotsford that the government opposed last year because it would

cause air pollution. Asthma City here we come.

Coal is ancient sunlight, accumulated over a 100 million summers. The deposits near Princeton and Tumbler Ridge were laid down when ancient trees and ferns fell into water. Deprived of oxygen, they slowly turned into coal. When we burn them, their carbon forms CO₂, trapping heat in the atmosphere.

Coal-fired electricity today = rising sea levels tomorrow.

Coal-fired heaters and hair dryers today = vanishing species tomorrow.

Coal-fired electricity today = children saying, "What were you thinking?"

I search for sanity in this decision, but I find none.

Why in the name of all that is beautiful has BC Hydro awarded electricity contracts to two new, coal-fired power plants, backed by the BC government?

All I find is a belief that business is good whatever the costs, combined with – I can only presume – a massive failure to grasp the urgency of the global climate crisis.

We do not need this kind of

electricity. We can invest in efficiency, cutting the amount of power we use in half. We have enormous resources of wind, tidal, solar, geothermal and micro-hydro power. The best power is not always the cheapest. There's biogas power from dairy herds and sewer-power from under the streets. There's a farmer in the interior who warms his buildings with heat from his cows' stored milk. Not all resources should be developed, but plenty can be without a loss of amenities.

BC Hydro has also awarded contracts to BC's first wind-power projects, which are located at Bear Mountain near Dawson Creek, Dokie near Chetwynd and Mount Hays near Prince Rupert. This is good, but they'll only produce half the power of the coal-fired projects.

If BC were to adopt the feed-law renewable electricity policy that many European countries use, and which Ontario has just adopted, small producers would have guaranteed access to the grid and we would see a surge of green, clean power.

It would not be enough to win the game; that would require the whole world's participation. But at least BC would be among the best, instead of dragging its feet among the worst.

Guy Dauncey is president of the BC Sustainable Energy Association (www.bcsea.org).



Spotted owl condemned

SCIENCE MATTERS • DAVID SUZUKI

ENVIRONMENT

One may be the loneliest number, but 17 is rapidly becoming one of the saddest. That's how many northern spotted owls are left in Canada. A recent decision by the federal environment minister all but guarantees they will be the last of their kind in our country.

Logging has pushed the spotted owls into a few pockets of old-growth rainforest in southwestern BC, and even these last vestiges of their homeland are on the chopping block. Earlier this year, environmental groups petitioned Rona Ambrose to intervene under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) and protect Canada's remaining owls. Last month, she declined.

Her response is more than merely absurd; it is disturbing in the extreme. First, it proves what many ecologists have feared all along, that SARA is weak to the point of being virtually useless. This piece of legislation was supposed to protect species at risk, species like the northern spotted owl. After all, the owl is more than merely at risk; it faces imminent demise. Yet instead of requiring the federal government to step in and take action, the act allows Ambrose to condemn the species with the flick of a pen.

Since its inception, critics, including myself, have argued that SARA is fundamentally flawed because of this massive loophole. Rather than basing the criteria for protection on a scientific assessment, it is based on political will. If the minister deems a species worthy of saving, she may act. However, if it is politically expedient to ignore a species in peril, she may choose to do just that.

Ambrose's decision sets an ominous precedent. If 17 creatures in the entire country are considered plentiful and not in need of protection, how low do populations need to drop before the federal government acts? A dozen? Six? One?

The decision to not protect the spotted owl could effectively doom all

endangered species in Canada.

That leads to the second reason why this is about much more than just the owls. Species don't live in isolation. They are part of an ecosystem that contains myriad creatures. Canada's spotted owls are not dying because hunters are shooting them or because of some mysterious disease. They are dying largely because logging is destroying the ecosystem that they depend on for food and shelter.

When that ecosystem is logged out, it threatens far more than just the spotted owl.

If the minister deems a species worthy of saving, she may act. However, if it is politically expedient to ignore a species in peril, she may choose to do just that... The decision to not protect the spotted owl could effectively doom all endangered species in Canada.

A study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Biodiversity*, for example, found that 22 other plants and animals also directly depend on the same old-growth forest habitat as the spotted owls. Those animals, which include threatened species such as the tailed frog, the marbled murrelet, northern gos-

hawks and fishers, will likely go the way of the spotted owl if their shared habitat continues to be destroyed by logging.

If the spotted owl disappears from Canada, at least 22 other species are at risk of disappearing along with it, and that's just the species we know about. Scientists have only catalogued and studied a fraction of the creatures found on the planet, especially in such diverse and life-rich places as temperate rainforests.

Is it too late for Canada's spotted owls? It certainly is if politics, and not science, guides their recovery. The same holds true for the rest of this country's threatened species.

As written, our Species at Risk Act both fails to protect the very creatures it is designed to save, and lets our politicians off the hook. Canadians deserve better. Our environment deserves better.

It's high time our endangered species legislation did what it's supposed to do.

Join the Nature Challenge and learn more at (www.davidsuzuki.org).

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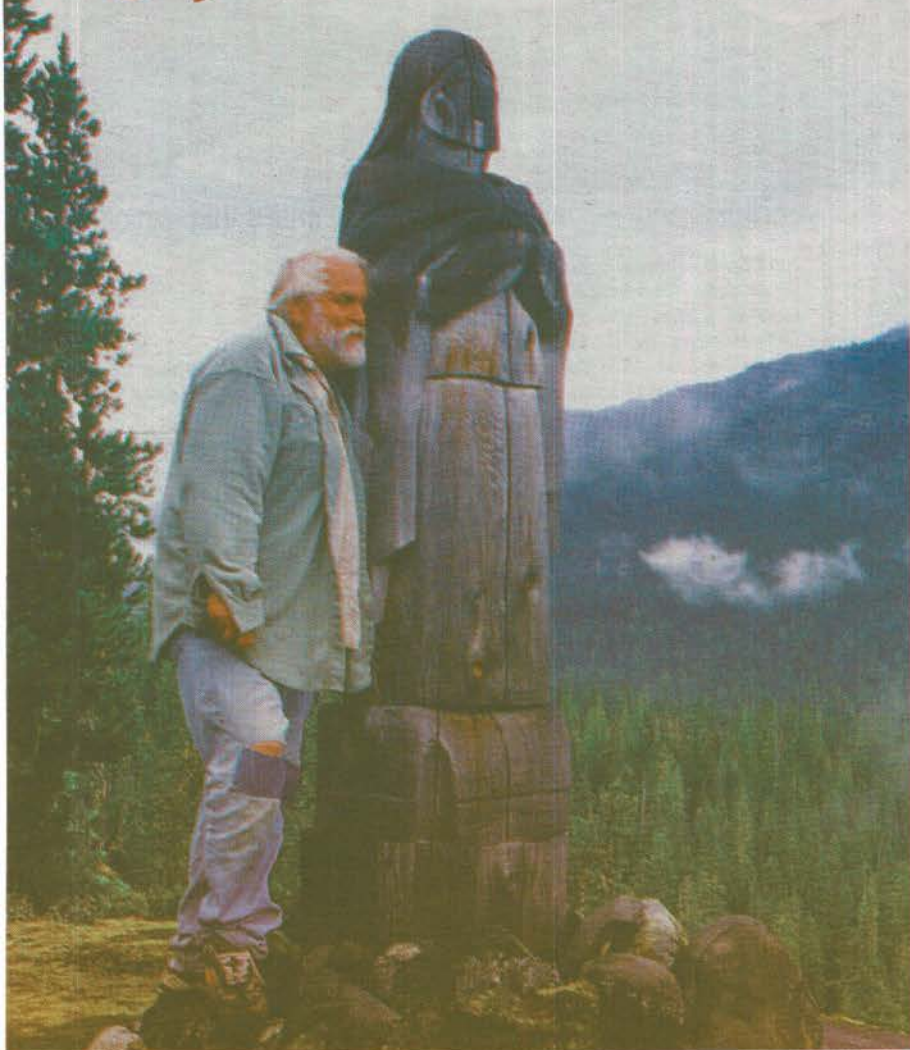
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Wilderness warrior Paul George celebrates 25 years with the Wilderness Committee



Looking out over the clearcuts down the Elaho Valley beside Cedar Woman. Photo: Paul Morgan.

BY PAUL GEORGE

Western Canada Wilderness Committee is rooted in three different origin myths. The one I've most often told is that WCWC germinated in a brainstorming session around a campfire one magical summer night in 1977. Thom Henley, Richard Krieger and I were camped on a beach in Windy Bay on Lyell Island in the heart of the South Moresby wilderness area on Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands). That campfire conversation was the genesis of not only WCWC, but also a remarkable nature-based outdoor education program called Rediscovery, and lots of new tactics for the campaign to save South Moresby.

The second origin myth, which has been retold almost as often, is that WCWC was created because of the US Sierra Club's refusal to publish a Canadian version of its annual wilderness wall calendar. Determined to see a Canadian product on people's walls, my friend Richard Krieger, a wilderness photographer, and I started our own non-profit society to make it happen.

The third story, never told before, is that after visiting the headquarters of Greenpeace in Vancouver in 1980, it dawned on Richard Krieger and me that we, too, could start and run our own creative organization focused on wilderness preservation. It looked like it would be a lot of fun.

All three stories have some elements of truth and on August 7, 1980, the Western Canada Wilderness Committee was born.

Richard Krieger backs my wildest dream

The whole thing began one fateful day in 1976 when my neighbour Richard Krieger unexpectedly stopped by my house to see me. We were working together as volunteers on a parks committee of the local Neighbourhood Improvement Programme (NIP), a federal/provincial/municipal project that was infusing \$1 million dollars into our working-class Victoria neighbourhood. We were plotting ways we could create more parks by strategically closing some streets in our over-road urban jungle.

I was working in the kitchen in my usual messy fashion, with piles of paper spread out all around, sort-

Paul George is co-founder of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, a not-for-profit organization that has been at the forefront of wilderness protection efforts in BC for a quarter of a century. The Wilderness Committee has played a pivotal role in protecting such household-name wilderness areas as the Carmanah Valley, Stein Valley, Sooke Hills, Burke Mountain, Gwaii Haanas (South Moresby) and Clayoquot Sound.

Three years in the making, Paul George's new book Big Trees Not Big Stumps and accompanying DVD is a compilation of over 560 photos, cartoons, videos, never-released video footage and behind the scenes stories. See pg. 31 of Common Ground for book launch details.

ing through information about the Queen Charlotte Islands. I'd started studying this archipelago, the most biologically unique in all of Canada, while writing a Grade 11 biology correspondence course for the BC Ministry of Education, a task I had just completed. When Richard asked what I was doing, I divulged my dream of helping to save a spectacular wilderness – called South Moresby – in the southern part of the island chain. Local residents had been campaigning to protect South Moresby for the last two years. I wanted to explore it; moreover, I wanted to write a definitive coffee table book that would help save it from being logged. I even had the book's name picked out: *South Moresby – The Galapagos of the North*. I planned to pattern it after the famous US Sierra Club/ Ballantine book series that was so successful, both artistically and politically, in saving wilderness areas in the US.

It was my big fantasy.

After hearing my story, Richard offhandedly said, "Let's do it!"

"Sure," I replied, carrying on in jest. "It'll be the adventure of a lifetime." Then, clicking back into reality, I said, "But you know I have no money." Richard, a few years younger than me, had a dry, impish sort of humour and I couldn't tell if he was pulling my leg. He was entertaining, smart and well-meaning. I got along really well with him, but sometimes I just didn't recognize his boundaries for practical jokes and impulsive, off-beat behaviour.

"I'll finance it!" replied Richard. He wasn't kidding! He even paid me a \$300/month stipend to help support my wife at that time and my three teenaged kids while I was away. This was the start of the journey that, inextricably and inevitably, led to the founding of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee. But it wasn't as simple as that. Richard and I agreed that we couldn't do the book project

by ourselves. We had to work with the local environmental group, the Islands Protection Committee. After all, this local citizen group was already campaigning to save South Moresby.

I immediately wrote to them and suggested we meet. It took a long time to get a reply, but finally a date was arranged. Richard and I strategized on how we should approach them and decided that, for the first meeting, I should go alone to broach the idea of the book. I flew to Sandspit, paid for by Richard, and hitchhiked up to Masset to meet with the IPC directors at Dan Bowditch's house. Dan was the head of BC Hydro on the Charlottes and one of the key directors of IPC.

First meeting with the Islands Protection Committee

At this first meeting with the IPC directors, I met Guujaaw (known then as Gary Edenshaw, before he was given his Haida name), who years later became the president of the council of the Haida Nation. He was in his early 20s and one of the few really active Haida on IPC. Thom Henley (nicknamed Huck when a kid because of his love of huckleberries) was also at the meeting. Huck, an American adventurer who had done a lot of solo kayaking on the west coast, had come to the Charlottes to kayak and ended up staying. Guujaaw and Huck had co-authored the South Moresby Wilderness Proposal that IPC championed. The proposal consisted of a map on which they'd drawn an infamous horizontal line just below the Tangil Peninsula with the statement, "No logging below here."

About 10 or so other IPC directors were also in Dan's living room. Dan introduced me to everyone. Contrary to rumours, Guujaaw did not refuse to shake my hand, but he did ask me whether or not I was a police agent. Of course, I denied such a ridiculous notion and then gave them a short version of my life history. I heard later that I dispelled his

and other IPC directors' suspicions of me with my genuine zeal for wilderness preservation and my knowledge about biology.

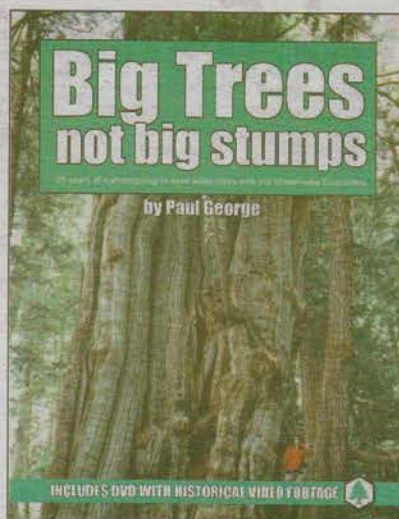
Guujaaw and I hit it off right from the start. I respected his ideas and blunt style of discourse. While everyone at IPC was interested in what I had to say, most were quite standoffish. IPC was a tight-knit island in-group. They had their own plans and I was an outsider.

The IPC directors didn't make a decision. They simply put me off, asking me to return with more details at a later date about our proposal for the South Moresby expeditions and book. I assured them that we would not embark on the project without their approval. A day later, I flew back to Victoria to tell Richard the news.

IPC says no to our book project

Richard and I worked hard on our proposal. For our second try, we decided to go up as a delegation of three. My friend Mark Horne, a smart, well-spoken, young law student, came along for support. "This will impress them," I thought. In early spring of 1977, we returned to Haida Gwaii and got our second hearing at an IPC board meeting at Dan's home in Masset. This time we had a detailed proposal. We even had a name for ourselves: The Galapagos of the North Book Collaborators.

After hearing us out, the IPC direc-



"The wilderness needs you," we often tell our members and donors. We kept working nonstop knowing that there was only one chance left to protect this planet's natural ecosystems that had taken millions of years to flower – and that chance happened to fall within our lifetime. We couldn't miss that chance for lack of effort. – Paul George

tors reserved their decision saying they had to talk it over. Mark immediately went back to Victoria. Richard and I stuck around waiting to hear the decision. Late the next day, Dan Bowditch broke the bad news to us. IPC would be doing its own book; therefore, it wouldn't be able to assist

us, or be part of our efforts. Richard and I re-affirmed our decision that we couldn't do it alone, so that was the end of our dream. The proposed expeditions and book would not happen.

Richard was deeply disappointed and left for home the next day. I was depressed too, but tried not to show it. What would I do with my life? I had come to count on this project. Feeling sorry for me, two of the IPC directors, Lark Clark and Jack Latrell, offered to let me stay in their cabin on Kumdis Island in Masset Inlet for a few days. "It's a great place to get away from it all." They also suggested that I come the following weekend to

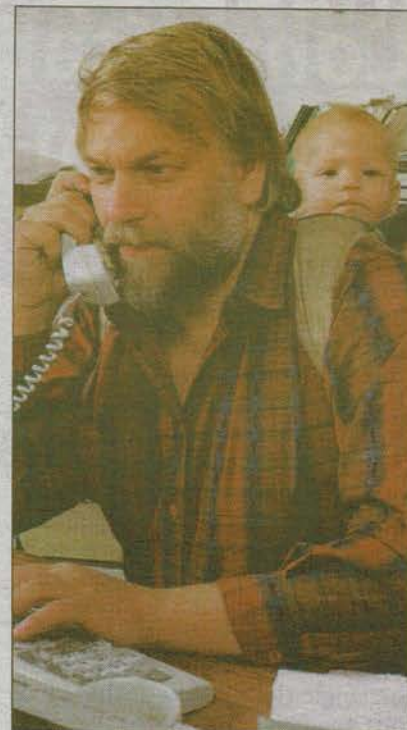


Photo: Steve Short, published in the June/July 1988 Canadian Geographic.

symposium. "I need the solitude," I said.

After staying three days, I had full-blown cabin fever. I had never been alone for so long. My day hikes into the incredible wilderness inspired only one small revelation: I discovered purposelessness was not

continued on p.31

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Conservatives gunning to kill Canadian Wheat Board

WENDY R. HOLM P AG

The Americans have been gunning for the Canadian Wheat Board since the mid-1980s. Some 20 years later, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper is poised to give it to them on a platter.

Coming out of a July 27 meeting to which only those who held the same opinion were invited, Harper's agriculture minister, Chuck Strahl, said his government was ready to implement its election promise to revoke the single-desk selling authority of the Canadian Wheat Board.

What an American-based WTO challenge and trade countervail action could not accomplish, Harper is about to deliver. Washington must be so pleased.

In April 2002, following a meeting with top US trade officials, North Dakota Wheat Commission chair Maynard Satrom assured growers "... the common objective of both the US government and US wheat producers is the ultimate reform of the monopolistic Canadian Wheat Board."

Two weeks later, in Senate testimony the US Department of Agriculture argued that the special privileges of single-desk sellers gave "unfair advantages" to CWB farmers, adding that American grain should be able to freely compete with Canadian grain for Canadian rail shipments.

Complaining that the practices of the CWB restrict US access to our market and make US producers less competitive on world markets,

the USDA called for "fundamental reform" of organizations such as the CWB "to permanently assure that US producers are treated fairly in the world market."

In March 2003, a WTO challenge was launched. Canada won that action in April 2004, as well as its subsequent appeal several months later.

In May the following year, the North Dakota Wheat Commission was at it again. In a letter to the House Ways and Means Committee, it argued

premium prices for farmers on annual sales of over two million tonnes of grain to more than 70 countries. All revenue less marketing costs is returned to about 85,000 prairie farmers. The CWB has a proud reputation for high-quality products, reliable supply and delivery and unparalleled customer support."

Yet on July 27, the Conservative government told farmers it was ready to implement legislative and regulatory changes to remove the single-

Unless farmers can find a third party buyer to take the grain off their hands at port, the only option will be to haul it to the long line terminals of the multinationals, where farmers will be price takers of daily rates based on lowest-cost global grain supplies.

the CWB "... has a longstanding history of ... creating and developing a competitive advantage ... in wheat markets around the world."

Well done! And the results are impressive. A privately held member cooperative, the CWB ranked number 95 in this year's list of the *Financial Post's* FP 500 companies. Just behind SNC-Lavalin, Saputo Inc and Canfor Corporation.

According to the Canadian Business Resource "... their status as the only seller of western Canadian wheat and barley positions the CWB to earn

desk authority of the Canadian Wheat Board.

For the CWB, dual-desk selling is a whistle stop away from gone. Multinational competitors with deep pockets will bid away grain in the short term, and the CWB will starve to death. Once gone, grower premiums of \$30 to \$45 per tonne that farm economists attribute to the CWB will disappear forever.

But the damage will not stop there. Collapse of the CWB will have a domino effect on the rest of the prairie grain economy.

The CWB's role in producer car allocation is a case in point. Presently, there are approximately 12,000 producer cars that arrive on demand at short line sidings across the prairies to transport grain to Thunder Bay, Vancouver and Prince Rupert, where it is bought by the CWB. Producer cars save farmers \$5 to \$15 per tonne over delivering grain to a local elevator.

Without the CWB, the producer car system will disappear. Unless farmers can find a third party buyer to take the grain off their hands at port, the only option will be to haul it to the long line terminals of the multinationals, where farmers will be price takers of daily rates based on lowest-cost global grain supplies. A race to the bottom, and Stephen Harper would lead us all there.

As short line railways that rely on producer car shipments disappear, the small communities they support will grow smaller and less sustainable.

Independent grain handling facilities that today are supported by the CWB's overseas marketing connections will quickly disappear in a market dominated by transnationals.

Highways will further deteriorate, as farmers will have no option but to haul grain longer and longer distances to larger and larger elevators.

Canadian grain will become generic and be mixed with the grain of other countries, lowering prices to western Canadian grain farmers.



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With the top four firms controlling 73 percent of world grain markets and the top five controlling an 80 percent share, and with six major North American rail companies controlling freight rates and car access, now is not the environment in which to weaken the power of farmers in the market place.

Section 47.1 of the Canadian Wheat Board Act is very clear: no minister will introduce any changes to the marketing of wheat and barley without consulting with the CWB and putting it to a producer vote.

Stephen Harper and his government apparently feel they are above this process. Strahl says they will enact legislative and regulatory changes to remove the single desk sales authority of the CWB, and are prepared to do so with or without CWB support.

Bill C-300 is part of that strategy. A private members bill that will amend the Wheat Board Act to allow non-CWB sales, it is sponsored by Agriculture Committee chair Jerry Ritz. Bill C-300 comes before the House for third reading and vote this month.

The Harper agenda for prairie agriculture sees grain as just another sector ripe for takeover by multinational interests. Farmers will turn from decision makers to price takers. Strong and viable family grain farms will be replaced by mega-farms with farm managers in double-wides.

Western Canada voters did not give Harper a mandate to deliver Washington's wish list for the Canadian Wheat Board.

If farmers stand for this, we will fall for anything. Democracy is on the line.

NOTE: I attended the July 27 rally in Saskatoon in support of the Canadian Wheat Board as an agrologist and at my own expense. I am a freelance columnist and not a member of The Western Producer staff. My participation of the events of July 27, including walking with farmers in an early morning information picket, was as a Canadian agrologist. My participation did not in any way represent the views of The Western Producer. I apologize if there was any confusion in the minds of some in attendance.

For the last two years, Wendy R. Holm wrote a column for Western Producer, a well-respected farming magazine. Her column was abruptly cancelled in August after she took a strong position in defence of the Canadian Wheat Board and participated in a farmer-led rally. Holm has a doctorate in agrology and has been honoured with numerous awards, including the Queen's Medal for writing in both 1993 and 2002, a gold medal award from the Canadian Farm Writers Federation in 2003, a silver medal from the same federation in 2004, plus she was voted BC agrologist of the year in 2000. (www.theholmteam.ca)

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9/11

The official story is the biggest conspiracy

Mark Twain said, "If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed; if you do read the newspaper, you're misinformed." According to Toronto writer Barrie Zwicker, this is the sorry truth about the officially accepted version of September 11, 2001, which he dissects in his new book *Towers of Deception: The Media Cover-Up of 9/11*.



As a media critic, Zwicker's credentials are impeccable: in addition to his commentaries on CBC Radio and Vision TV, he has worked for the Toronto Star and The Globe and Mail, and taught journalism at Ryerson University for seven years.

Common Ground: According to a few polls taken in the US and Canada, there is a notable lack of faith in the official story on 9/11. Why do you think this disbelief persists, in spite of the lack of media interest in an alternative take on 9/11?

Barrie Zwicker: The disbelief persists because despite the drumbeat of the official story, and despite the nearly utter failure of the mainstream media to raise questions about the absurdities and impossibilities of the official story, ordinary, decent people, using their own senses and adding two and two, smell something fishy. Especially because the people promoting the official story, namely the White House and the big media, also promoted the lie of WMDs in Iraq, and have lied and covered up on other large issues. What I call the apologist community has more and more to answer for.

The early August Scripps Howard/Ohio University nationwide poll shows 36 percent of the US public "... suspects that federal officials assisted in the 9/11 terrorist attacks or took no action to stop them, so the United States could go to war in the Middle East." The same poll shows "... anger against the federal government is at record levels." The most common thing that Americans tell me is that the Bush regime is capable of anything and that it will stop at nothing. I agree.

CG: You were skeptical early on about the official story on 9/11.

What was it that gave you your initial doubts?

BZ: My initial doubts arose before noon on the day of 9/11, based on the absence of any USAF response to the multiple hijackings, over a drama in the skies that lasted almost two hours. As a person always very interested in aviation, I knew that this quite simply was impossible. It turned out I was the first journalist in the world to go on national TV to question the official story.

CG: If 9/11 were a conspiracy against the American people, it would presumably require the involvement

first atomic bomb. Conceived in 1939, the Project, by its completion, involved 43,000 people at 37 facilities in 19 states and in Canada. It was kept entirely secret. Who knew about the stealth bomber until the military chose to reveal it? Who knew about the U-2 spy plane until one was shot down over the USSR, thereby wrecking the Paris peace talks? Large secrets can't be kept? Gimme a break!

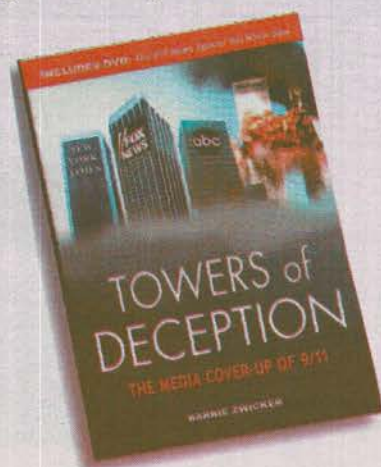
CG: Many will be willing to go with you as far as the idea that the White House had forewarning of the attacks but allowed them to go through for political gain. But they will reject the

plan for a staged domestic terror attack?

BZ: The frightening thing about Operation Northwoods was that the whole of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff unanimously signed off on it. It involved American citizens being killed, to make more real the lie that the Cubans were carrying out "terrorist attacks" against the US. Furthermore, most of the advisors around then President John F. Kennedy were in favour of the horrible ruse, which would have led to the invasion of Cuba back in 1962. The rot of criminal, immoral, death-dealing decep-

There are deep and widespread realities of the media that create a de facto censorship regime as powerful as Pravda and Izvestia ever were in the old Soviet Union. You have to start with the owners of the corporate media, who are closely supportive of the Bush White House. The Fox News network is, in effect, a privatized, propaganda network at the disposal of Bush and company.

of hundreds, if not thousands of people, to play their respective roles and maintain silence afterwards. What do you say to critics who say people can't keep secrets, and that something this big is bound to get out?



BZ: For one thing, I point to the Manhattan Project, in which the US developed and then exploded the

idea of direct government involvement. What do you say to them?

BZ: In any crime, you have to search out all the evidence you can and then find out which suspect the evidence points to more than any other suspect. In the case of 9/11, the smoking guns are all pointed at the White House. Some people shrink from this observation out of a sheer established trust in government, or the belief that government would be incapable of such a heinous crime. Such a belief is unjustified by the evidence of what previous governments throughout history have done. Keep in mind what Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote in *The Sign of Four*: "Whenever you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

CG: In your book and DVD, you cite the declassified Operation Northwoods, a planned "false flag" operation that nearly came to be 30 years ago. Can you tell us more about this

tion was already that deeply rooted in the US White House then. Is today's White House more pure?

CG: In your book, you state that it is the cumulative weight of evidence, rather than any one incident that leads you to believe 9/11 was an inside job. If you were to name the closest thing to a smoking gun, what would that be?

BZ: Smoking guns include the near freefall collapse – controlled demolition, for example – of WTC7. The non-appearance of the USAF for almost two hours on 9/11, and Bush saying he saw on ordinary TV the first plane hit, when footage of the hit was not aired on ordinary TV until the next day, come second and third in my lineup of smoking guns.

CG: Can you tell us more about World Trade Centre building number seven?

BZ: As mentioned, it was a matter of controlled demolition, which Larry Silverstein, the building's owner, later



admitted in the PBS documentary *Rebuilding America*. The question is could Osama bin Laden have been able to infiltrate his al Qaeda agents into WTC-7 weeks in advance and plant the required explosives? If he did have that power, how come the administration, and of course, the mass media in general, pay so little attention to this amazing power of Osama's as to make WTC-7 a "non-building" to this day? Why does the 9/11 commission's report not mention its collapse whatsoever?

CG: In your opinion, which techniques are being used to cover up the real story?

BZ: They're more than techniques. As I have written about extensively in my book, there are deep and widespread realities of the media that create a de facto censorship regime as powerful as Pravda and Izvestia ever were in the old Soviet Union. You have to start with the owners of the corporate media, who are closely supportive of the Bush White House. The Fox News network is, in effect, a privatized, propaganda network at the disposal of Bush and company.

Add to this the traditions of journalism – he said, she said journalism, for instance – that treats lies and truth equally. And that journalists live in the same fiction-ridden society as everyone else, and are not, despite their pretensions, immune from "Big Picture BS." As well, many, if not most, journalists are careerists and learn which stories or actions will get them raises and promotions, and which will get them into hot water. Put all these factors and many more, including peer group pressure, together and you get a situation akin to a school of fish; they all learn in which direction to swim and they all swim in that direction together.

CG: Of the independent researchers and/or writers digging into this matter, whom do you follow and respect?

BZ: There are many. And many, if not most of them, are ordinary, unsung people I meet in various cities who are doggedly pursuing 9/11 truth and trying to share it with their

families, neighbours and colleagues. Of the better-known 9/11 truth activists, I think my greatest respect and admiration must go to Dr. David Ray Griffin, now the author of four books about the truth of 9/11. I devote a chapter to him in my new book.

Michael C. Ruppert, although he has, unfortunately, made some negative and unnecessary remarks about the 9/11 truth movement, remains a giant of the movement in my eyes nevertheless. He was about the earliest out of the gate, and when he spoke in Toronto in January of 2002, he pried my eyes open much wider than they were at that time. He connected the dots between the CIA, Wall Street, the illegal drug trade, corruption in the US government and 9/11. I believe his video, *Truth and Lies of 9/11*, was the first of its kind, based on a talk he gave in Portland, Oregon, in November 2001. He now focuses almost exclusively on Peak Oil and again, not only was he early on that, but he has also helped boost the visibility of the coming end of the age of oil, which will be civilization-shaking.

CG: Given your conclusions about 9/11, do you have suspicions about the attacks in Bali, Madrid and London?

BZ: More than suspicions. In my book, I list 18 false flag operations, including Madrid and London. I also believe Bali 1 and Bali 2 were false flag ops. More recently, the trans-Atlantic exploding shampoo terror fraud was obvious from the beginning, as was the roundup of 17 "terrorist suspects" in Toronto in June of 2006.

CG: In the past, mainstream media has shown its readiness to give nominal coverage to activists and their campaigns, only to dismiss them, or reduce the concerns to just one more scare story in a barrage of manufactured news. Are you concerned this could happen with your message?

BZ: There are signs that, spurred by the inescapable imperative of news organizations to play up anniversaries in a big way, that even the mainstream is having to recognize there are a lot of people who are not on board with the official story. But after the fifth anniversary passes, there will be a tendency to once again relegate all 9/11 truth activity to the memory hole. Of course, other developments, especially one or more other horrendous false flag ops, could change the whole picture, probably much for the worse.

CG: Many people would prefer to ignore or reject your conclusions. For to take any of it seriously means more than a co-opted or complicit media; it means we are governed by monsters and there is no social contract. What do you say to the people who reject your thesis, for fear of looking into the abyss?

BZ: I sympathize with people who

continued on p.34



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As within so without

THE POWER OF NOW • ECKHART TOLLE

In one of his books, Carl Jung tells of a conversation he had with a Native American chief who pointed out to him that, in his perception, most white people had tense faces, staring eyes and a cruel demeanour. He said: "They are always seeking something. What are they seeking? The whites always want something. They are always uneasy and restless. We don't know what they want. We think they are mad."

The undercurrent of constant unease started long before the rise of Western industrial civilization, of course, but in Western civilization, which now covers almost the entire globe, it manifests in an unprecedented, acute form.

It was already there at the time of Jesus, and it was there 600 years before that at the time of Buddha, and long before that. Jesus asked his disciples, "Can anxious thought add a single day to your life?" And the Buddha taught that the root of suffering is to be found in our constant wanting and craving.

Resistance to the Now as a collective dysfunction is intrinsically connected to loss of awareness of Being and forms the basis of our dehumanized, industrial civilization. Freud, by the way, also recognized the existence of this undercurrent of unease and wrote about it in his book *Civilization and Its Discontents*.

So how can we be free of this affliction? Make it conscious. Observe the many ways in which unease, discontent and tension arise within you. Anything unconscious dissolves when you shine the light of consciousness on it. Once you know how to dissolve ordinary unconsciousness, the light of your presence will shine brightly.

Make it a habit to monitor your mental-emotional state through self-observation. "Am I at ease at this moment?" is a good question to ask yourself frequently. Be at least as interested in what goes on inside you as what happens outside. If you get the inside right, the outside will fall into place. Primary reality is within, secondary reality without.

But don't answer these questions immediately. Direct your attention inward. There are many ways in which people unconsciously resist the present moment. I will give you a few examples. With practice, your

power of self-observation, of monitoring your inner state, will become sharpened.

Freedom from unhappiness

Do you resent what you are doing? It may be your job, or you may have agreed to do something, but part of you resents and resists it. Are you carrying unspoken resentment toward a person close to you? Do you realize that the energy you thus emanate is so harmful that you are, in fact, contaminating yourself as well as those around you?

Maybe you are being taken advantage of. Maybe the activity you are engaged in is tedious. Maybe someone close to you is dishonest, irritating or

unconscious. All this is irrelevant. Whether or not your thoughts and emotions are justified makes no difference. The fact is you are resisting what is. You are making the present moment into an

enemy. You are creating unhappiness – conflict between the inner and the outer.

Your unhappiness is polluting not only your own inner being and those around you, but also the collective human psyche of which you are an inseparable part. The pollution of the planet is only an outward reflection of an inner psychic pollution: millions of unconscious individuals not taking responsibility for their inner space.

Stop what you are doing, speak to the person concerned, or drop the negativity that your mind has created around the situation. Recognizing its futility is important. Negativity is never the optimum way to deal with any situation. Anything that is done with negative energy will become contaminated and, in time, give rise to more unhappiness. Furthermore, any negative inner state is contagious; unhappiness spreads more easily than a physical disease.

Are you polluting the world or cleaning up the mess? You are responsible for your inner space – nobody else is – just as you are responsible for the planet. As within, so without. If humans clear inner pollution, they will also cease to create outer pollution.

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Getting it together

UNIVERSE WITHIN • GWEN RANDALL-YOUNG

It is not the enemy we need to conquer, but rather the polarity.

When a part of the body becomes stiff due to muscle strain or arthritis, for example, there is a loss of movement and flexibility. It occurred to me that the same could be said of our attitudes and perceptions.

When we believe there is an absolute right and wrong, our minds become rigid and fixed. We are not open to other viewpoints and we absorb information from the environment selectively – information that is in alignment with our beliefs.

The problem with all of this is that there is no absolute right and wrong. There are only points of view. It seems that when a point of view is paraded as a fact, it can then be used to justify all sorts of actions and behaviours.

Watching televised interviews of people on two sides of a conflict, we see that each side sees and believes only their own perspective. The inability to recognize that there is no reality – only interpretations of the individual or group – results in if not total blindness, then serious blind spots.

I am reminded of scenes where a pop machine or automatic teller doesn't work and a frustrated consumer hits or kicks the machine. We view this as a primitive non-solution. How different is it when one gets angry at an opposing viewpoint, reacting with criticism, judgment and negation?

Whether we look at this issue from the perspective of personal relationships, community, country, or the global village, solutions can never be found through amplifying the polarities. On the contrary, it is conflict, dissonance and unrest that become amplified.

Like the neck stiffened with arthritis, we cannot turn our head away from our own viewpoint enough to see what might be displayed on another's perceptual screen.

When it comes to differences, the default program in human thinking seems to be defined by a focus on what the other side – individual, group, or nation – is doing, or has done, that is wrong. From there, it is a short step to good guy/bad guy thinking.

SPIRITUALITY

Before we know it we have created an enemy. Of course, from that moment on, everything the enemy does is wrong, or at least suspect. The fire of hostility has been created and both sides continue to throw logs onto it.

As we have seen, this can continue generation after generation in, and between, families, nations or religious groups. The young are taught who are good and who are bad and the hostility continues. It is interesting, however,

that even within polarized groups there are people on both sides who are not interested in conflict and simply want to live in peace.

What can we do? The first thing we can do is recognize that we do not have to take sides. There are

enough people out there adding to the energy of polarity. We need to add our energy to those who are striving for civility, solutions, balance and broader perspectives.

We can then use our intelligence to generate win-win solutions. We can do this on a small scale within our families and we can do it on a large scale. I do believe that small polarities in the home or office energetically contribute to global polarity.

Our world seems increasingly polluted with the negative energy of war, conflict and fear. We can use our own consciousness as an energy purifier. With global technology, we can positively influence others all over the world. We must first be that which we seek to see in our world.

If we want fairness, balance and understanding, we need to extend them to others first. In order to do that, we need to release our hold on the idea of anyone being right and focus instead on what it is we would like to create. We need to understand both sides before we can build a bridge to connect them.

Gwen Randall-Young is an author and psychotherapist in private practice. For articles and information about her books and CDs, visit (www.gwen.ca). See display ad this issue.

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SEPTEMBER 2006 • ILONA HEDI GRANIK



ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Typically, Aries people need to have a goal and make headway as they chart their direction. These past few months you have been on a journey of discovery. Now, you seek a more stable environment. Fresh insights will emerge in your mind and develop rapidly as you follow your bliss.



TAURUS (Apr 20 – May 21)

Depending on the relationship you have with money, you may be in for a sobering up regarding your finances. Things relating to your security – whether emotional or monetary – all stem from your self-esteem. Your foundations will undergo a bit of turbulence, so be emotionally prepared for self-examination.



GEMINI (May 22 – Jun 20)

Whether you work well with others, want to lead the pack or branch out on your own, it's time to state what you need. This is not a time for passivity. To accomplish much at this time, put your mind in motion and your mouth in gear. Action and follow-through are key elements. Be delighted in your abilities.



CANCER (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

Could be that the pace of your life accelerates. An average day is not the norm; rather, there is an essence of urgency and importance, especially where finances are concerned. People also come and go rapidly in your relational experience. Stronger ties with others have yet to be cultivated.



LEO (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

"Stay balanced" is not an old cliché. You will need to pay special attention to how you let the candle burn at both ends. However trivial you think details are, you will find that if you don't tie up loose ends, they will become a snowball effect of challenges. Perhaps, just for the next while, keep a variety of interests to a minimum.



VIRGO (Aug 23 – Sep 22)

Many transitions have transpired and brought you to a place of rest and resolve. Along with your sense of accomplishment, you could enjoy planning social activities. Take full advantage of your creativity and share your ideas with exuberance when you are ready for company again.



LIBRA (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

A romantic mood may sweep over you. Sunsets take on a magical glow, as you reflect on personal attachments and perhaps even unrequited love. You might imagine, wish and desire a healthier life for yourself and for others. The ways of your heart open many doors and you may aim higher than ever.



SCORPIO (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

You may not enjoy the airy-fairy concepts that are at play and influencing your daily life. Others seem to demonstrate unrealistic and false pretenses and you have little patience for that. You may find that you speak in a more straightforward manner to cut through the illusions you may encounter.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

You may be happy taking care of tedious and mundane things that beg for attention. You do what needs to be done and clean out the closets and empty out the mental trash. Nothing is too menial, as you tackle it with ease. A sense of starting over in your career may or may not be an actual occurrence.



CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Some Capricorns may enter marriage, or a level of commitment they have been entertaining moves into a new phase. If this is your dream, you aren't just misty-eyed, but frank and open about your feelings. You are prepared to do what it takes to prosper from partnership.



AQUARIUS (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Working relationships will become a source of inspiration if you allow others to input their perspective. You might have to adjust your regular workload and help those who need to step up the pace. This is an exciting time and you can multi-task while you establish new strategies that work well.



PISCES (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

The air hints of a few more promises of change. Spectacular events bring great personal progress, but you also feel humbled by the work and purpose that you feel ignited from within. Great awakenings and illuminations about your past have you making plans for a journey with new meaning.

Ilona Hedi Granik is a clairvoyant consultant and author with 31 years of experience in astrology, multi-media art and healing. (iamilona@gmail.com) (www.HeartLightCentre.com).

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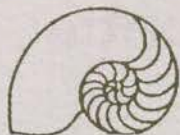
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Revamp for fall

ON THE GARDEN PATH • CAROLYN HERRIOT

ORGANICS

Once the fall rains have started, it is the perfect time to feed the lawn. Use an organic fertilizer, one higher in phosphorus and potassium to stimulate root development. Warm, moist soil activates myriad soil microorganisms that break down natural source ingredients and slowly release them as nutrients. Avoid synthetic lawn fertilizers with high NPK ratios; they destroy the intricate web of soil life and cause fast cellular plant growth, resulting in weak tissues more prone to insect and disease attack.

About mid-fall, cut the grass really short. If there's a build-up of thatch (undecayed grass, roots, etc.), dethatch the lawn. Aerate, leaving the core plugs to break down and feed the grass. Apply dolomite lime if required. Lawns on the wet West Coast, where heavy rains tend to acidify soil, usually need a yearly application. Wait two weeks after liming the lawn to fertilize.

Use a winter-wise organic lawn food high in phosphorus and potassium. Phosphorus (P) strengthens grass roots. Potassium (K) strengthens grass blades and promotes general good health. Top-dress with screened compost or a sandy garden loam. Overseed with an appropriate grass mixture and keep well watered until the seed has sprouted. Never let a new lawn dry out.

Grass needs warmth and time to germinate. Some grasses take three weeks or more. Ideally, seed in time for a good root system to develop before the first hard frost. Apply a mycorrhizal inoculant or spray with compost tea. Effective microorganisms reestablish a proper microbial balance in the soil; microbes do not regenerate on their own so they need to be reintroduced.

When spraying the lawn with compost tea or using a mycorrhizal inoculant, avoid chlorinated water, which destroys microbes. Tip: When cutting, use a mulch mower, which leaves grass clippings that will break down to feed soil microbes. High populations of microbes breaking down organic matter should prevent a buildup of thatch.

Plant a tree

When it starts raining again, it is also the perfect time to plant fruiting or ornamental trees. Make sure to choose an evergreen or deciduous tree that meets your needs. Fast-forward to its full maturity to ensure the tree will survive at the location of your choice. Check for overhead wires, perimeter drains, rooflines, shade, blocked views

and anything that might cause the tree to be cut down in the future. If you have natural gas, check your gas main before digging.

Dig a hole four times wider and a little deeper than the root ball. If dry, soak the hole with water before planting. If it's a ball-and-burlap tree, place it in the hole and soak the root ball. Remove the burlap carefully, taking care not to break the soil ball around the roots. Handle by lifting from the bottom of the root ball, not by the tree trunk. Position the tree straight up in the centre of the hole. Mix the soil from the hole with compost and mycorrhizal inoculant or aged manure and fill in around the roots. Make sure the root flare remains visible at the soil surface; do not bury it. Tamp down to remove airspaces, which encourage fungal diseases around roots. Attach the tree to strong stakes, one on each side. Pound them into the ground to prevent the tree from rocking back and forth during heavy winds. Use non-abrasive ties. Water in well. Remember to remove stakes and ties after two years at the latest.

From *A Year on the Garden Path: A 52-Week Organic Gardening Guide* by Carolyn Herriot. \$29.95, Earthfuture Publications, Victoria, BC. Available at Banyen Books, Duthie Books or at (www.earthfuture.com/gardenpath).

When buying a tree, check for the following:

- An adequately sized root ball, which has not circled in its container.
- A trunk and bark free of wounds.
- A strong form with well-spaced, firmly-attached branches.
- Bare root stock: the ends of the roots should be clean cut.
- Root ball stock: root balls should be flat on top and at least 10 times the diameter of the trunk, measured six inches above the trunk flare.
- Container stock: roots should not have circled around the container.

Vancouver festival sounds alarm bells

FILMS WORTH WATCHING • ROBERT ALSTEAD



Dr. Riyadh at Abu Ghraib prison in *My Country, My Country*, a film by Laura Poitras. Photo: Paul Cabaugh.

Alan Franey says his first year at the new Vancouver International Film Centre on Seymour Street has been a little frustrating. While the artistic director of the Vancouver International Film Festival has grown accustomed to the constant media attention during festival time, since the centre started regular screenings in January, attendance has not been as good as it should be, he says.

Franey is not the only theatre manager struggling to hold his ground in a world of DVDs and broadband Internet, but he is beginning to see just how much of a focal point the film festival is for people. "It must be that a lot of our audience sees more films during the film festival than they do the rest of the year," he says. "It's extraordinary and I hadn't appreciated quite how much that's true."

It is VIFF's 25th anniversary this year and Franey is keen to remind people of the "convivial," social aspect of the film festival and cinema-going. He believes it is particularly important given that a good proportion of the films at this year's festival have urgent messages that we need to hear, share and discuss.

"We have almost a last chance to change the direction that the world is going," Franey says, pointing to films that are sounding alarm bells about food industrialization, oil and the "New Crusades." While these subjects have become VIFF staples, Franey sees the new crop of films as more forward looking and predictive than in the past.

At the top of his list is the French documentary *Black Gold*, offering four one-hour features about the history of oil. "It's the scariest treatment of the subject that I have seen," Franey notes, adding that it provides

some astonishing footage of what Texas used to look like in the '20s and '30s compared to how it looks now.

In *American Zeitgeist*, 40 political commentators, including Noam Chomsky and Christopher Hitchens, trace the development of al-Qaeda from the Soviet-Afghan war era. Two other films with a political focus are *We Feed the World*, which shows the impact of modern food industry practices in the West, and *My Country, My Country*, which offers an intimate portrait of the lead-up to the first post-Saddam elections in Iraq.

Common Ground is sponsoring *My Country, My Country* at VIFF this year and I thoroughly recommend it. This fly-on-the-wall documentary opens in a Baghdad home on the eve of last year's elections in Iraq. A young boy asks his father if he is going to vote. The camera alights on the father's pensive face. The rest of the documentary explains the implications of this apparently innocent question, and we are led into the tumultuous situation of modern Baghdad, viewed through the eyes of a Sunni doctor and political candidate for the Iraqi Islamic Party.

Laura Poitras' roving camera travels everywhere, from the fences at Abu Ghraib to inside the US assault 'copters flying over Baghdad. *My Country* captures the fear, and encouragingly, the humour and resilience of the people of Baghdad. The occupying US forces come across as largely out of touch and slow footed. Spending one and a half hours with Doctor Riyadh and his family will give you a better understanding of the situation in Iraq than watching endless hours of news reports ever could.

We Feed the World is an unsettling Austrian documentary, which metic-

CULTURE

ulously documents how the mechanization of modern food production has created a monster. It reveals how the Western agro-industry's insatiable hunger for yield creates poorer-quality food, mind-boggling waste and impoverishes our environment and those who rely on it for their living. An Austrian farmer says he gets less money for his grain than road grit, while enough bread to feed Austria's second biggest city Graz is destroyed each day.

Filmmaker Erwin Wagerhof has impressive access to the farms, factories and processing plants. In particular, one unforgettable segment tracks the journey of a broiler from a newly-hatched egg to shrink-wrapped chicken at a state-of-the-art poultry processing plant. There is also a candid interview with Nestlé CEO Peter Brabeck, who coolly suggests that NGOs are "extreme" for expecting access to clean water as a right.

On the lighter side, for pure fun Franey recommends *Paheli*, a Rajasthan Bollywood film, and John Malkovich provides comic relief in *Colour Me Kubrick*, a fact-based story about a con artist who pretended he was the publicity-shy film director Stanley Kubrick.

Franey expects that the documentary *Loop*, an "armchair extreme nature communion," which follows people who have found balance in their life through the outdoors, will have wide appeal. *Old Joy* remains one of Franey's favourite films from the Sundance Film Festival, and while the film is set in Oregon, it could have been filmed in BC. Franey feels that it is a must-see for BC filmmakers on how to "... capture the landscape with that integrity and truth." Franey expects *Shortbus*, a drama by queer filmmaker John Cameron Mitchell (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*), to generate controversy with its graphic scenes of unsimulated sex.

Looking to ride on the coattails of *March of the Penguins*, the ice-bound nature film *The White Planet* (*La Planète Blanche*) features some beautiful footage of Arctic wildlife, including a polar bear family at play, migrating caribou herds and underwater shots of diving guillemots. Unfortunately, this straightforward - Bjorkish soundtrack aside - documentary lacks the narrative focus of *Penguins*, and to rise above the level of the average, dumbed-down piece of nature fluff, it should have stated more clearly how climate change affects this ecosystem.

The Vancouver International Film Festival runs September 28 to October 13. For more information, visit (www.viff.org) Robert Alstead is currently making a documentary about Critical Mass in Vancouver entitled *You Never Bike Alone*.



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My Country, My Country (USA, 90 min.)

Working alone in Iraq for eight months, director Laura Poitras has created an extraordinarily intimate portrait of Iraqis living under the US occupation. Focusing on Dr. Riyadh, father of six and Sunni political candidate, Poitras' film unfolds like a narrative drama as we see the gradual descent of one impressive family caught in the tragic conflagration that is Iraq today. <MYCOU>

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A Zen Life—D.T. Suzuki (Japan/US/UK, 87 min.)

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We Feed the World (Austria, 96 min.)

The globalized food industry has stripped the seas bare, wasted opportunities to solve world hunger and managed to create a tasteless tomato—so what's next? Food may well become the dominant issue of the age, as the world's most powerful nations employ increasingly extreme methods to increase yields. A deeply disturbing, yet critically important film.

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TWENTY SOMETHING • ISHI DINIM

We are the peace. This became apparent to me over the last few months from meeting folks on my journeys. Each and every one of us is the peace, if we choose it. Our tendencies towards, or away from, living peacefully are consequences of innumerable experiences: education, physical surroundings, social factors, family and community.

Because of and regardless of these dynamics, we still come to choose our own way to live, to pick up tools and do things in the world, with either swords or plowshares. I constantly hear that there are reasons to become warriors and fight for something, and sometimes I even argue it myself. The method is the key; how we choose to fight means everything. I don't know if I or anyone I've ever met really truly responds well to violence.

It is no surprise that my life is full of peace. I've had good soil in which to grow. The freedom – Canadian version – to be how you want in our country allows for all kinds of expression and encourages a respect for other peoples' ways. I know we are imperfect, but I believe many people, if allowed, would pick our imperfection over another.

This sense of righteousness that I hold – that my way of life is the best – seems legit to me. I assume that other people in other walks of life believe that their way of life is the best. When those ways rub up against each other, personally, nationally or spiritually, there is often friction and dis-ease.

In the world, capacity for "real" choice in life expands or constricts depending on many social factors. I believe that only in extreme cases are humans totally cut off in their ability to choose their next course of action. It is our inability to cogitate multiple solutions or changing paths to success, which usually leaves humanity stuck in rigid and violent cycles.

I'm not suggesting that thinking really, really hard about a better world will change places where people speak murder as the way. But even in those dire situations, the capacity for each

I constantly hear that there are reasons to become warriors and fight for something, and sometimes I even argue it myself. The method is the key; how we choose to fight means everything.

individual to put down their war tools exists.

At every step, we must remember our own part in the process. If each of us can live honestly with what we're responsible for, there will be genuine peace in each person and the chance for it to dwell amongst us.

I choose waves of sunshine, feasts and playing. What do you want?

Films:

A/K/A Tommy Chong

Protocols of Zion

Soldiers in the Army of God

It's All Gone Pete Tong

Quote: Because we want peace with half a heart, half a life and will, the war making continues. Because the making of war is total, but the making of peace by our cowardice is partial. – Father Daniel Berrigan

Ishi graduated from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in 2001, with a BFA major in photography. He makes films, collects cacti and ponders many things. Currently, he is trying to figure out what to do with the rest of his life (contactishi@yahoo.ca).

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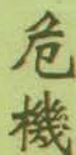
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century recognized the dangers that we now face. Read Nobel Laureate Konrad Lorenz's "Waning of Humaneness", C.G Jung's short masterpiece "The Undiscovered Self", "The Universe Story" by Brian Swimme & Thomas Berry, and "The Dream of the Earth" by Thomas Berry providing insight into the uni-

fying importance of another order of reality. I believe that the time has come for all of us to examine the conclusions that our authors reached, and to come to an understanding of how we can help to effect societal change by changing our own individual outlook. (Books available on the market or at libraries.)



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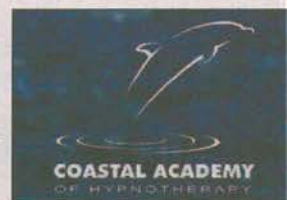
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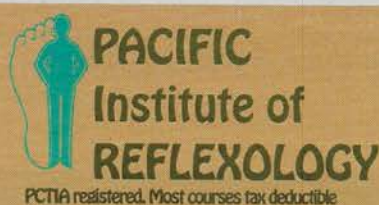
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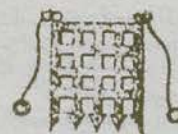
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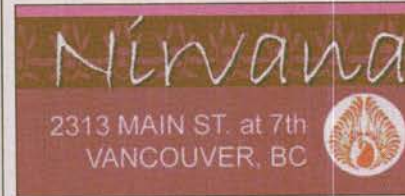
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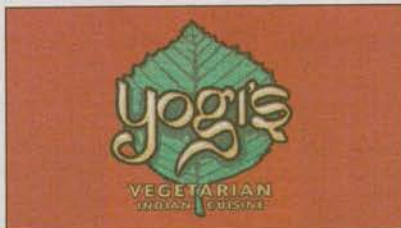
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George continued from p.13

for me. On day three, the weather rapidly began to deteriorate and the winds picked up. I figured I might be stuck there for days if the storm brewing up was a big one. "It's time to go home to Victoria and my family," I said to myself. I quickly packed and closed up the cabin. In less than a half-hour's time, I was paddling back to Port Clements. I arrived in the late afternoon at the exact moment when Lark and Jack were leaving to go to the symposium at Skidegate Museum. There was room for one more in the van, so I hopped in. They said that I could probably stay that night on the floor in Skidegate in Joe Tulip's bachelor house. Huck and Guujaaw would be staying there too.

About 150 people attended the symposium. IPC was right: South Moresby was the big topic. Amongst the many who gave speeches that day was Guujaaw. He got sort of tongue-tied, stumbled over words and didn't say much. I learned later that day that it was Guujaaw's first big public speech. One of the Haida elders told Guujaaw afterwards that it was a good one because "It gave everyone there a chance to think about what you might have said."

Preliminary government report gives the South Moresby Wilderness Proposal a big thumbs down

Near the end of the symposium, Ric Careless, who then worked for the BC government's Environment and Land Use Committee Secretariat (ELUCS) and was attending the symposium as an "observer" for the government,

unexpectedly gave a progress report on the secretariat's unfinished study of the South Moresby Wilderness Proposal. During the previous two years, Ric had visited the Charlottes

Now the Bill Bennett Socreds - members of the Social Credit Party - were in and their sympathies lay with the big logging companies.

Careless authoritatively informed

going to handle that. It was obvious to me that the South Moresby Wilderness Proposal was dead.

The book dream is revived

Numbed, alone and discouraged, I left immediately at the end of the symposium. I didn't have the heart to wait around to speak with anyone from IPC. In the pouring rain, I walked slowly back from the museum along the highway to Joe Tulip's house in Skidegate Village. It was time to fly home.

Halfway there, Huck caught up to me. He said, "Paul, things have changed. We're going to need your help, all the help we can get!" I didn't ask him if they needed to have the other directors' approval to make that decision. I knew Huck wouldn't make such a statement unless the other leaders in IPC, especially Guujaaw, had already agreed. Huck promised to go on one of our expeditions. He - we - talked excitedly about what needed to be done. What an emotional roller coaster ride of changing fate! Now full of enthusiasm, I returned home and told Richard the good news.

The above is excerpted from chapter one of Big Trees Not Big Stumps.

Join Paul George and the Wilderness Committee for a party and book launch Wednesday, September 20, 7-10pm, Roundhouse Community Centre. Advance tickets \$15 each or 2/\$25. Includes a \$10 credit toward a signed copy of the book. Contact 604-683-8220 or (wildernesscommittee.org). Limited tickets at door: \$20 each or 2/\$30.



Cartoon lampooning the unsustainable overcut. Artwork: Anette Shaw.

and gone to several IPC directors' meetings like the one I had attended at Dan Bowditch's house.

The IPC directors were sure that Ric supported their proposal, but circumstances had changed. The Dave Barrett NDP government that initiated the ELUCS study in 1974 had been voted out of government in late 1975.

the symposium audience that ELUCS had concluded that Rayonier, the big logging company that held Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 24 (accounting for 99 percent of the logging in South Moresby), was not a problem. It was the small-scale, independent "gyppo" hand loggers who were causing problems and the BC Forest Service was

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SEP 8-10

**HH the Dalai Lama visits
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Heart. Sep 9: Cultivating Happiness,
GM Place. Also Sep 9: Happiness and
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SEP 9

**Shamanic Drumming &
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SEP 16

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SEP 16

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SEP 16-17

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(www.communication-house.com/dan-winter.htm).

SEP 16-17

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SEP 17

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5pm, The Space, #305-1008 Homer
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2505.

SEP 20

**Paul George & the Wilderness
Committee** - Book Launch Party for
Big Trees, Not Big Stumps: Stories,
slides, & music. 7-10pm, Roundhouse
Community Centre. Tickets: 604-683-
8220 or (www.wildernesscommittee.org). Advance: \$15 or 2/\$25. Door:
\$20 or 2/\$30.

SEP 20 OR 21

Climate Action Workshop
hosted by BC Sustainable Energy
Association. Provide input to citizen's
climate action plan. Victoria: Sept 20,
Vancouver: Sept 21. Free. Registration
& details at (www.climate4tour.ca).

SEP 21-24

**Bhagavan Das in
Vancouver:** Sep 21: Booksigning/talk Banyen Books, 6:30pm. Sept.
23: A Kirtan Chants & Sacred Music,
Vancouver Baha'i Centre, 5880 Main
St., 8pm, \$25 now/\$30 door. Sept 24:
Mysticism of Sound Nada Workshop,
Semperviva Yoga, 2582 W. Broadway,
1-4pm, \$65. Tickets Banyen Books,
604-737-8858.

SEP 22

Song Of The Labyrinth:
New Labyrinth Opening at Christ
Church Cathedral with the One Voice
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the MantraVani Orchestra. 7:30pm,
\$20 suggested donation or pay what
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SEP 22-24

**30th Anniversary &
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SEP 23 & NOV 18

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6418, (anitanairne@telus.net) (www.anitanairne.com).

SEP 23

**Wolfsong Autumn Equinox
Medicine** Wheel Celebration
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(www.drumcircles.ca).

SEP 23 - 24

Quantum Healing: Awaken
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and energy healing. Vancouver: Sep
23-24. Edmonton: Sep 30- Oct 1.
Red Deer: Oct 2-5. (www.Quantum-Healing.name).

SEP 23 - 24

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SEP 23 - 27

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SEP 24

**The Salmon Celebration
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South East False Creek. Brings props
& masks. Parade begins 1:50pm. More
info at (www.falsecreekwatershed.org) or email (salmoncelebration@hotmail.com).

SEP 29-30

**Attend Launch of Two
Books** on Spiritual Relationship by
International Relationship Coaches
and Matchmakers Colin Hillstrom and
Ariole K. Alei. Book launch Sept 29,
Workshop Sept 30. 888-521-1113 or
(www.heartsongsolutions.ca).

SEP 29-30

**Journeys Through Nine
Dimensions:** Pleiadian Agenda
Activation with Barbara Hand Clow
and Gerry Clow. Cdn. Mem. Centre
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SEP 30

Life is a Gift! Living Joyfully:
12:30-4pm Workshop exploring
ways of living with more awareness,
releasing our creativity and embracing
life's gifts. Register Kerrisdale Centre
604-257-8100.

SEP 30-OCT 1

Taste of Health - EarthSave
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OCT 1 - 7

Pure Meditation: Essential
teachings that awaken the cosmic
power within to control your own
destiny bringing joy, peace, health
and inner wisdom. SRMH Centre, 1-
604-740-0898.

OCT 16 - 30

Buddhist Teachings The
Hermitage, Denman Island.
Changling Rinpoche: Inner Yoga
Path of Rechunga; Damcho Thokme:
Buddhist Yoga Practice; Karma
Gyurme Rinpoche, Healing Master
(www.dharmafellowship.org).

OCT 27-29

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International Spiritualist Alliance: #201-317 Columbia Street, New West, 604-521-6336. Sunday services, 11am. Rev. Joyce Tarvin, 604-433-6663. See Resource Directory (www.isacanada.ca).

TUESDAYS

Pranic Healing Clinics: Non-touch energy healing. By donation. Tuesdays 11am-3pm and 6-9pm. 2950 Laurel St, Vancouver. Re-opens Sept 12. Closed last Tuesday of month (www.pranichealing.ca/vancouver).

Reflexology Student Clinic sessions, only \$18. Evenings only. By appointment. Pacific Institute of Reflexology. 604-875-8818.

WEDNESDAYS

Meditation & Self-inquiry: Have you lost the balance and rhythm in your life? Let stillness (through self-inquiry) return your wholeness. 5-7pm, 604-317-1613.

Children of War fundraiser: Chai Gallery at East is East hosts a fundraiser for Children of War (www.thechildrenofwar.org). Music & dancers. 7:30pm - 1:30am, 3243 W. Broadway. \$25/door or call 778-837-1862.

THURSDAYS

Pranic Healing Clinic: Non-touch energy healing: By donation. West Vancouver United Church, 2062 Esquimalt Ave. Thursdays 10am-2pm. Re-opens Sept 14. Closed last Thursday of month (www.pranichealing.ca/vancouver).

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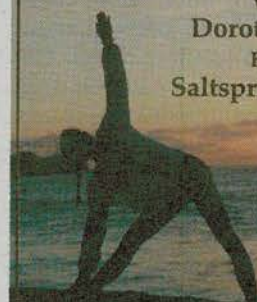
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about various drugs to treat Alzheimer's disease at the Alzheimer Society of Canada's website (www.alzheimers.ca) won't find any information about the comparative cost, safety or effectiveness related to these drugs. The information provided for each drug is as brief as the information found on the sheet handed out by the pharmacist: how to take the drug, expected side effects and so on for drugs such as Aricept (donepezil), Exelon (rivastigmine) and Reminyl (galantamine). The website's brief statement about the most popular Alzheimer's drug, Aricept, reads, "This information sheet is a brief description and summary of information about this medication. If you have any questions about Aricept, ask your doctor or pharmacist." Boy, that's helpful.

For a different take on Alzheimer's, you might try the US-based *Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs* at (www.crbestbuydrugs.org). In the "Featured drug reports" area under the heading "Drugs to treat Alzheimer's disease," one reads: "They are *not* particularly effective. When compared with a

placebo, only 10 to 20 percent more people taking an Alzheimer's drug seem to benefit at all." Quite a contrast to the bump put forth by the Alzheimer Society. Hint: *Consumer Reports* doesn't take any money from the pharmaceutical companies.

I search the Alzheimer Society website for any sign of the clinical trial where 11 Aricept patients who had vascular dementia died, compared to no deaths in the placebo patients. I find nothing. No word either on the warnings issued about the Alzheimer's drugs. Hmm.

I have no doubt that much of the web-based information put out by industry-funded groups serves patients and caregivers well. There is often information about community activities and self-help tips that is extremely helpful. Yet when it comes to information about drugs and treatments, why do I feel they are delivering only half the story, i.e., the good half? Why is there a noticeable lack of honesty about the safety, effectiveness and costs associated with the drug treatments they mention?

Someone please tell me that these

groups are getting vast amounts of Pharma money and this is somehow subtly shaping the quality of the drug information found on their sites. I hope they are at least getting rich from under-serving their clients this way, but somehow I don't think that's the case.

At the end of the day, I feel that even a tiny bit of drug money affects the message of patient-disease groups who shape drug information and lobby for coverage to please their captors, and those pharmaceutical companies are likely getting a very good deal buying the credibility of these groups. Public money may be lacking and donors cheap, but is there any solution to patient-groups held hostage by the drug industry?

An interim solution is for those patient-groups to admit there's a problem and start producing ethical guidelines around their conduct with their funders. Consumers should be aware that any patient-disease group getting Pharma money is not going to provide balanced information about drug products. I haven't seen it happen, but I'm willing to be convinced.

A better, long-term solution? Wean oneself off the drug money. Do less of what you do, but do it honestly and with integrity. Provide people with the straight goods about their diseases and drugs. I bet you could do a pretty good job of living Pharma-free if you gave it a chance.

In Canada, we don't have any federal regulations or anti-kickback laws governing pharmaceutical interaction with patient-groups, but maybe we need them. Until the funded patient-disease groups eschew drug money and show us they are serious about taking up arms for their patients instead of their funders, like Patty Hearst, they deserve to be treated as spectacles, possibly deserving of sympathy and pity, but nothing else.

Alan Cassels is co-author of *Selling Sickness: How the World's Biggest Pharmaceutical Companies Are Turning Us All Into Patients*, and a drug policy researcher at the University of Victoria. He is also the founder of *Media Doctor Canada* (www.mediadoctor.ca), which evaluates reporting of medical treatments in Canada's media.

9/11 continued from p.17

do not want, as you so well phrase it, to look into the abyss. It takes courage and a dedication to follow the truth wherever it may lead, however discomfiting or even threatening to the well-being of oneself and one's family.

At the same time, I think our best chance to get out of our multiple messes is to face them squarely, take the bull by the horns and join the struggle for a safer, saner world. In a way, I agree with Bush, and with Jesus, in their stating, "You're either with me or against me." One of the most dispiriting things is to encounter people who say, "I know what you say is true, but I don't intend to do

anything about it." Would they say that if their doctor diagnosed them with cancer?

CG: Do you see any chance in the near future of reversing a trend toward reduced civil rights, military expansion and global atmospheric breakdown?

BZ: If by near future you mean five years, yes. I also think that if we the people have not seriously undermined the ruling hyper-militaristic, super-deceitful, power-mad *oligarchy* of ruthless greedsters, they will have declared martial law and moved to full-fledged fascism. I do not say this lightly. I mean the kind of genocidal fascism that Hitler practised. Today's oligarchy was spawned by the same forces – runaway corporatism and

ideology – that fueled Hitler's Third Reich. We either stop them, or we, and our children – those who survive – will be living in the Fourth Reich, which may be the ultimate fate of humankind, which is not wired for survival.

As the resources run out, Earth will be a pathetic place, where a few ultra-wealthy live in fortified places, while the vast majority either die or barely survive. A successful revolution might be as unlikely as bringing the oil back. I think we have to imagine how good life on Earth could be if we smarten up and learn to live together, and how bad it could be if the present trends continue.

Remember, the present trends, or at least most of them, are toward dystopia. To overlook this is to engage in fatal denial. Denial is probably the main Achilles' heel of the species known as *Homo sapiens*.

There are too many great websites to list; here are a few to get you started:

www.911truth.org
www.oldamericancentury.org
www.mujca.com
www.truthout.org
www.citizenscourt.com
www.911blogger.com
www.podcasts.com

Events:

September 8-11, New York City-Be part of history. Come to NYC for the 5th anniversary of 9/11. info@ny911truth.org

September 11-17, 2006, Washington, D.C. People will convene and move through the legal recourse needed to redress the gov-



ernment. The "War of Lies" has passed the \$500 billion debt mark and 3,000 Americans are dead, along with hundreds of thousands in the nation we "saved." Freedom and liberty have been sold out to a federal police force. All Americans have been affected by corporate and limited liability governments and municipal codes. The time has come for a change. See <http://www.911citizenscourt.com/index.php>

Magazines: *Global Outlook* (www.globaloutlook.ca). Books by David Ray Griffin: *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions*; *9/11 and American Empire: Intellectuals Speak Out*; *Christian Faith and the Truth Behind 9/11: A Call to Reflection and Action*

Videos:

9/11 Press for Truth
Everybody's Got to Know Sometime
The Truth & Lies of 9/11

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